

EARTHQUAKE'S DEATH ROLL COUNTS NEAR TO 100,000 VICTIMS

Messages Bring News of Undreamed
Carnage Throughout Devastated
District and Hourly Extent
Of Slaughter Grows.

By Associated Press.

ROME, Dec. 29.—One hundred thousand men, women and children are dead; Messina, Sicily, Reggio and a score of towns in southern Italy are annihilated; the entire Calabrian region is laid waste; that is the earthquake's appalling record so far as at present is known from the reports coming into Rome very slowly, owing to the almost complete destruction of all lines of communication.

The death list in Messina is anywhere from 12,000 to 50,000, and in Reggio, which wita its adjacent villages, numbers 45,000, almost the entire population.

At Palmi 1000 persons are reported dead; at Cassano, 1,000; at Cosenza 500, half the population, and at Bagnara about 4,000.

The Monteleone region is devastated, and Riposa, Seminara, San Giovanni, Ecilla, Lazzaro, Cannitello and all other communities and villages in the straits are in ruins.

The king and queen of Italy are on their way to Messina, having sailed tonight from Naples aboard the battleship Vittorio Emanuele.

The pope has shown the greatest distress over the calamity, and himself was the first to contribute, giving a sum amounting to \$200,000 for the relief of the afflicted.

British, French and Russian warships are steaming toward the south and already several ships of Great Britain and Russia have performed heroic service in the work of rescue.

It is feared many foreigners have been killed, as a number of hotels in Messina and doubtless other places were crowded with tourists.

Little is known of the fate of the diplomatic representatives of the powers at these posts, although the Italian government is using every effort to relieve the anxiety felt on this account.

The gravest danger is pestilence may follow the destruction of the towns, because on account of the vast havoc the bodies will lie unburied for days and possibly weeks.

Those who escaped death, many of them badly injured, are making their way by thousands to the nearest places of refuge. Their sufferings even now must be intense, as they are without food and clothing.

The strait at Messina was shaken and twisted by the earthquakes, for mariners report that the channel is altered beyond recognition.

Ports and villages on both the continental and Sicilian sides are wrecked, inundated, and all light houses along the coast are swallowed up. Navigation is now dangerous, and in some places impossible.

The seaport of Reggio is reported as no longer existing, and the city proper is in ruins.

The loss of life on both sides of the strait, and in eastern Sicily is enormous.

Starving, bleeding from injuries and almost insane from the terrifying experiences, Messina's survivors are fleeing in all directions.

The spectacle presented by the ruined seaport is described as terrifying. Tumbling buildings both killed and mutilated many. Hundreds injured and imprisoned in the wreckage were abandoned to their fate by the fleeing populace.

One survivor said: "The earth seemed suddenly to drop and then turn violently on its axis. The whole population was practically precipitated from the houses when they were rent in twain and people were spun around like tops as they ran through the streets. Many fell and were crushed to death, and other, bewildered, took refuge for breath inside the tottering walls, where they soon met the fate of their companions."

The sailors and marines of the Russian and British squadrons disembarked at Messina and performed courageous acts, rescuing the injured and removing the wounded.

A large number of survivors were transferred to the warships. These were transformed into great floating hospitals.

Steamers with doctors, druggists, firemen and workmen arrived at Messina from Catania and other points.

Special dispatches from Catania confirm the destruction of Reggio and report the situation as bad, if not worse, than that of Messina.

Relief funds have already started and a hundred ships and trains are on the way carrying supplies and reinforcements to the south.

Immediately after the quake sailors from the Italian torpedo boat Sappho landed officers and men and Italian and British steamers also sent men ashore.

Many prisoners in the jail escaped and looted right and left. Hundreds were engaged in robbing banks and business houses.

Vandalism of the worst kind has broken out and the government has instituted strict measures. Robbers and looters are being shot.

The prison at Messina collapsed. Some of the prisoners were killed but the survivors have joined the vandals. There is confusion and no resistance, as the local chief of police is dead in the ruins of his office. The barracks at Messina is demolished and the commander killed with many of the enlisted men.

The government has sent General Feirra de Cossatti to be in full charge of the devastated territory. His first move will be to declare martial law.

The night in Messina was one of horror and indescribable fire and robbery, with dead and dying on every side. The city was in utmost confusion. In the spell of terror were many courageous acts by soldiers and citizens, many of whom lost their lives rescuing others.

Towards morning the worst fires were under control, the looting was partially stopped and comparative order prevailed.

The finest palaces, churches and theaters are in ruins. Countless dead bodies are buried in the wreckage.

Pestilence will probably add its horror.

The devastation was more or less complete and no part of Calabria escaped.

The tidal wave was 23 feet high.

Three battleships cruising have been ordered by wireless to proceed to Messina. The British squadron has also left to assist in the rescue.

ROME, Dec. 30.—Half the population of Calabria and the eastern part of Sicily is dead, and the other half is weeping.

It is impossible to exaggerate the horrors. The calamity overwhelms Italy. It is almost beyond imagination. Not only are dead by tens of thousands but innumerable wounded are buried beneath ruins, many of whom must perish because it is impossible to rescue them.

The whole of Italy is stunned and at the scene of the disaster most of the people are literally demented.

The number of victims is estimated at 50,000 to 100,000.

The king and queen arrived at Messina today. When they made their way through the ruined city the queen almost swooned. The crowd, terror stricken, swarmed around the royal party, men and women throwing themselves in the mud at their feet and screaming for aid and pity.

At Messina the worst fears were confirmed. The cathedral, municipal building, barracks and prisons are destroyed and presumably all the smaller buildings also.

Of 280 railway employees at the station in Messina only eight survived.

At Reggio the silence of death still

reigns, leaving to imagination the terrible havoc.

When day dawned the entire shore line had changed in appearance. All the magnificent houses are tottering ruins, from which issue jets of smoke and flame.

Subscriptions were opened and headed by the king with a donation of four hundred thousand dollars.

The premier received a telegram from Messina stating the city was entirely destroyed, flames completing the work of the earthquake.

"The disaster exceeds wildest imagination," it asserted.

The volcano Stromboli is active and the seas around the island are agitated and dangerous for navigation.

Many survivors at Matania, Sicily, who have temporarily lost their reason, glare at questioners and murmur incoherently and ceaselessly, "Messina is destroyed."

It is said Messina is still blazing despite a torrential downpour of rain.

News from the outlying districts in Calabria say that 35 towns and villages have been wiped out, and the number of victims in that district alone is 30,000.

The few survivors have fled to the mountains and are subsisting on roots and bark of trees.

NAPLES, Dec. 30.—Time only confirms the unspeakable horrors of the overpowering catastrophe of the earthquake. History perhaps will never divulge the supreme total of individual tragedies, for earth and sea have ruthlessly laid claim to thousands of human beings, and flames have mercilessly completed the uncompleted devastation.

The hotels and homes at Naples are crowded with refugees, and people are vying with one another in aiding the stricken.

Those who have explicit knowledge of the subject agree the center of the calamity was the strait of Messina, which is also the center of the volcanic zone, whose highest peak, Aetna, is now silent. From this base to Telluric the disturbance extended, abating little by little, northerly as far as Cape Vaticano, and southerly to the Bay of Catania, ravaging the western region of Calabria and the eastern coast of Sicily for nearly a hundred miles.

It is impossible to ascertain accurately the movement east and west in the island regions, but it is certain the beauty of one of the most charming sections of southern Italy is irrevocably despoiled. Vineyards are no more, waving rows of orange, lemon and olive trees are torn up, and the enchanting coast line with its soft fragrant foliage is converted to a hideous desert.

Reggio, whose green aspect set off the severity of its mountains, and Palmi, perched jauntily amid orange and olive trees, have become mere blots on the horizon.

ROME, Dec. 30.—The immensity of the disaster in southern Italy and Sicily can be measured only by the fact that it is estimated 110,000 persons perished in Messina and Reggio alone.

A score of other towns are devastated, and thousands of victims in these places will be added to the roll.

All Italy is appalled with horror.

Shipsloads of fugitives have arrived at Naples and other ports and a vast majority of these are sorely injured. Other thousands remain near the ruins of their homes, to wander half-starved and half-naked over the land.

The forces that Monday overwhelmed the cities also destroyed the means of sustenance.

Telegraphic communication has been established with Messina, apparatus having been set up in the railway station. The messages which come over the wires, though meager in detail, show all hope in gone.

Nothing remains of the city but a mass of ruins swept by fire.

A mere handful of survivors is being cared for by the rescuing forces, but the distress is great and has been increased by a recent icy wind followed by a deluge of rain.

The destitution is appalling. There is little food and less water.

Of Messina's 90,000 population, it is believed 70,000 perished. Forty thousand persons died at Reggio.

King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena were at Messina today. The king explored the ruins regardless of danger. He was often moved to tears at the heartrending scenes he came upon at every turn.

The king was loud in his praise of the splendid work accomplished by Italian, Russian and British bluejackets, who saved many persons that otherwise would have perished.

The queen spent the day in the wards of improvised hospitals visiting the wounded, many of whom had lost all that was dear to them.

Her majesty did her best to cheer them with womanly words of consolation, often breaking into sobs as she listened to dreadful tales of suffering.

The king left for Reggio tonight.

Catania, the largest city near the

scene of the disaster, is crowded with refugees, and a continuous stream of fugitives is coming in. The sight of the wooded area so alarmed the population it is becoming uncontrollable. There is no longer any place for refugees to find shelter.

Cardinal Francesco Nava Di Bontife, archbishop of Catania, has employed all the money in his possession to provide bread for the refugees.

ROME, Dec. 30.—The government is finding difficulty in ascertaining the fate of many foreigners who were in the earthquake zone at the time of the catastrophe.

Admiral Makharoff, commander of the Russian battleship which arrived with fugitives at Naples today, confirms the report of the death of the American consul at Messina, Arthur S. Cheney, and his wife, who were buried in the ruin of the consulate.

The number of Americans in southern Italy and Sicily is believed to be small.

The minister of war is dispatching orders to the military authorities who have practically taken over absolute power throughout the zone.

All heads of foreign states have sent expressions of warmest sympathy and deepest condolence.

France is dispatching five warships from Toulon to Messina.

The minister of marine today received word the steamships Taormina and Campania, laden with forty-five thousand beds and a large supply of provisions, had left Genoa bound for Messina. Other steamers, fully stocked, are on their way to the stricken cities.

Added to the difficulty of obtaining food and water, there are no drugs or surgical appliances.

Temporary hospitals have been rigged up but comparatively few can be relieved.

The scenes of horror defy description. The survivors are suffering cruel extremities, and in Messina people may be seen everywhere vainly searching in the dust and debris for morsels of food.

Dispatches state the city of Palmi contains 1500 dead, and twice as many injured. Two-thirds of the town is laid waste. All the villages adjacent are damaged severely.

Dispatches from Catania describe Messina as appearing like a huge incandescent furnace.

The strait of Messina is choked by corpses of men and animals.

At the present time twelve warships are at Messina, four Italian, four British and four Russian, as well as a number of destroyers and steamers.

The injured that are being cared for aboard the steamers will be removed to Naples.

It is impossible to approach Reggio by land or sea.

The ministry of marine has received word that frightful looting and pillage has occurred at Reggio. The place will have few survivors.

MESSINA, Dec. 31.—The scene was frightful today amid the ruins of the customs house. Bands of famished individuals groped in the debris for food. The first successful searches were attacked by others with revolvers and knives and obliged to divide.

The struggle was fierce. Like wolves several persons fell disemboweled, defending mere handfuls of dry bones or a few ounces of flour. One unfortunate was pinned to a plank with a knife, clinging to the hand of his little child, for whom he sought food.

The king and queen left Messina last night and arrived at Reggio today. When they reembarred on the warship they sent a wireless message.

"I have returned from Reggio, where I found the condition no less disastrous than at Messina," the message read.

The prefect of Reggio says grave injury has visited his provinces.

A Russian warship with 500 wounded aboard arrived at Naples this morning. Everything must be prepared for them. Another Russian ship will carry them to Syracuse.

Slowly the measure of the disaster is being taken, and as reports accumulate it is seen the first estimates did not exaggerate the extent of the horror. Officials estimate the dead at 102,000 and there is reason to believe it will be greatly exceeded.

The pitiable plight of the survivors has universal attention. Countless thousands of half demented, naked, starving survivors, some wounded, some uninjured, are crying pitifully for food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine.

There is no news of Americans. Ambassador Griscom is said to have set out from Rome to secure news of Americans.

It is estimated a hundred thousand people have fled the desolated territory. The latest estimates of the dead at Palmi and Bagnara is 14,000 and 15,000 respectively.

It is estimated an army of 25,000 is needed to rescue the living still entrapped and to bury the dead.

LIPARD ISLAND GROUP HAS VANISHED

Some Estimates Place
Loss of Life At
300,000

SURVIVORS OF BIG DISASTER
ARE DYING FROM WANT
OF NECESSITIES OF
LIFE

By Associated Press.

ROME, Dec. 31.—A wireless message from the Strait of Messina reports that the Lipard island group of volcanic islands in the Mediterranean near the coast of Sicily have disappeared.

The total population numbering 28,000 must inevitably have perished. The minister of marine has rushed a torpedo boat to ascertain the facts.

Shipsloads of fugitives have been carried from the stricken zone to Naples, Palermo and other ports, and thirty-six vessels are now centered in the Straits of Messina and five thousand soldiers are being landed on the coasts.

The most important thing is attention to the survivors. Thousands who escaped death in other forms are now starving without clothes and shelter. They cannot long survive without food being conveyed to them or they being transported to places where it can be supplied.

Intermittent shocks continue. The British warship Minerva reported two severe shocks had occurred at Messina last night.

Horrors grow with every fresh dispatch. One estimate of the death toll is 300,000, though this appears extreme. The official estimate made by the minister of marine holds it is 115,000.

Relief expeditions, making their way to Reggio, have encountered tremendous obstructions along the route.

Eighteen provincial villages in Calabria besides those already mentioned have been ruined. What has become of the inhabitants is not known.

Assistant has reached but few villages which are practically without supplies of any kind.

BUILDING RESUMED ON WICKENBURG POWER PLANT

(From Wednesday's Daily)

Construction of the electric power and lighting plant of the Central Arizona Power Company at Wickenburg recently stopped on account of some misunderstanding among the stockholders, will be resumed this morning. C. E. Meisse arrived there yesterday from Chicago, accompanied by a new construction superintendent, and made arrangements for the immediate starting of the work.

President Meisse is quoted as saying that the company has ample finances to carry the work to completion and that operations will be resumed until the plant is ready to furnish power and light to the Octave Mining Company's mine, mill and camp as well as a number of other mines and camps in the Weaver and Martinez districts.

Some uneasiness was manifested by the owners of mining properties in these districts when work was stopped on the construction of the power plant ten days ago. Many had made arrangements for the purchase of electric hoisting and pumping machinery for their mines to be delivered as soon as the power company was ready to furnish the power.

Negotiations for a number of mining deals also came to a standstill as soon as it was reported that the construction of the plant had ceased.

All uneasiness vanished when President Meisse gave out recently that the plant will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible and the mine operators and those contemplating the purchase of properties are now assured of power at a much reduced rate, enabling them to reap handsome profits which were formerly impossible under the high fuel prices.

With the completion of the transmission line to Octave the line will be extended to other camps. It will be finished to the camps of the principal power purchasers by the time the plant is completed.

President Meisse of the power company and the Octave Mining Company will remain in Wickenburg several days until the resumption of construction is well under way.

DIVINE PERHAPS DEAD.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 30.—Rt. Rev. David Sessums, the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana, is believed to have been at Messina at the time of the earthquake.

LAND PEEPING TOM WITHIN CITY'S CALABOOSE

Rubberneck Individual
Draws 100 Days At
Hard Labor

(From Thursday's Daily)

"Peeping Tom," whose "rubberneck" visits have annoyed the residents of different parts of the city the last two weeks, is now safely behind the bars of the city jail. He was arrested Wednesday night by Officer Frank Heisler and sentenced to serve 100 days at hard labor in the city recorder's court Thursday evening at 5 o'clock, on the charge of carrying concealed weapons. It is probable that he will be charged with either vagrancy or insanity when his term of imprisonment expires. A .32 caliber double action pistol was found on his person when arrested. The weapon was loaded.

When arraigned in the recorder's court he entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of carrying concealed weapons, although he admitted that the gun exhibited in court was his and found in his pocket after his arrest.

On cross examination he admitted that he had called at several homes during the nights of the last two weeks but insisted that he was invited there and that his arrest was a "put up" job on the part of a number of women who were jealous of his attentions to others and who called their dogs to chase him away when he returned his calls. His conversation and actions in court suggest that his mind is unbalanced.

He gave his name as George Calapso. He was arrested in Congress several years ago on a charge of insanity. The charge was ignored at his hearing in the probate court.

It is alleged that his peeping antics in congress led to his arrest on the insanity charge.

He has resided here since discharged from custody on the insanity charge. He is a laborer. Recently he has been employed by a local undertaking establishment and occasionally digging graves.

He will be remembered as the lame drummer of the Salvation Army at intervals during the last three years. He often exhorted the "sinners" along Montezuma street in the summer evening to forsake their bad habits and seek grace with the fold.

EXCHANGE GREETINGS

Sheriff's Office Makes Change of
Regime at Witches Hour.

(From Friday's Daily)

Outgoing and incoming county officers for the next two years exchanged greetings yesterday evening and last night in the court house.

District Attorney R. E. Morrison called at the sheriff's office early in the evening and bid an official farewell to Sheriff Lowry and Under Sheriff Neagle. He complimented these officers on the conduct of the sheriff's office during the term now closed, stating that their official relations were always amicable, although they differed widely in political affairs and policies.

District Attorney Morrison was associated with Sheriff Lowry in an official way in the last and present centuries. The veteran district attorney assured everyone last evening that he was shedding the official linen of the district attorney's office for the last time, having concluded never to become a candidate for the office again. He has filled the office three terms.

Sheriff Lowry, who served four terms as sheriff, relinquished the duties of the office at midnight last night to Sheriff J. W. Smith and after wishing his successor success as an official departed. The change was made in the presence of several friends of both sheriffs.

Sheriff Smith then appointed Charles M. Baible, under sheriff, Joseph Cook and Charles Keeler, deputy sheriffs, and George Heisler, jailor. These officers were then sworn in by Clerk Peter of the board of supervisors, acting in his official capacity as notary public.

District Attorney Morrison surrendered his office to District Attorney H. D. Ross.

Supervisor W. G. Wingfield finished his term as supervisor last night. Supervisor J. W. Stewart will enter upon the discharge of his official duties this morning.

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